

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, which amends claims 1-7, 10, 13, 20-24, and 26-29; cancels claims 9, 17, 25; and adds new claims 30-36, claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-36 will be pending. In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-19 and 21-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortman (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,349) and further in view of Tunnicliffe (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,240); and claims 2 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortman and Tunnicliffe and further in view of Klein et al. (U.S. Application No. 2002/0212818, hereinafter "Klein"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claims 1-20

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of Tunnicliffe. Applicants submit Fortman and Tunnicliffe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1, as amended. For example, claim 1 recites:

determining a recipient identifier for the recipient for the message, the recipient identifier usable to determine a plurality of device types that are associated with the recipient;
determining the plurality of device types associated with the recipient using the recipient identifier, wherein device identifiers are associated with the plurality of device types;
dynamically determining a device type in the plurality of device types in which to send the message in response to receiving the message from the sender.

Fortman discloses sending a message to a subscriber. *See Fortman*, col. 6, lines 11-12. Fortman also discloses determining a device that the caller is using and translating the message to be compatible with the device the caller is using. *See Fortman*, col. 5, lines 60-64. Fortman translates the message from different formats that are used by callers' telecommunications equipment to a format compatible with a subscriber telecommunications equipment. Specifically, the ADSI text format is used. *See Fortman*, col. 3, lines 9-35. Thus, Fortman detects the type of equipment used by the caller and then sends a message to a translator for the detected type of equipment so that it can be translated into the subscriber format, such as

the ADSI text format. Fortman does not detect the type of equipment that the subscriber is using as it translates all messages from a caller to the ADSI text format.

Tunncliffe discloses a personal message management system for a user. A user constructs messages that can be sent in a variety of formats. *See Tunncliffe*, col. 6, lines 20-24. The constructed messages are stored and then later sent to the user. This is a personal message system where the user leaves the message for his/herself and they are later sent to the user. The messages may be translated into different message formats. *See Tunncliffe*, col. 6, lines 61-63.

Applicants submit that Tunncliffe and Fortman, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest determining a recipient identifier for the recipient where the recipient identifier is usable to determine a plurality of device types that are associated with the recipient and dynamically determining a device type in which to send the message in response to receiving the message from the sender.

Fortman is directed towards sending a message to a recipient associated with a device. A plurality of device types for a recipient is not disclosed or suggested by Fortman. Also, Tunncliffe is directed towards a personal message system for a single user. The user may be associated with multiple devices; however, since this is a personal system, Tunncliffe does not need to determine a recipient identifier for a recipient of a message that is sent from a sender where the recipient identifier is usable to determine the device types that are associated with the recipient. As claimed, this identifier is used to determine the plurality of device types. Because Tunncliffe is a personal message system, the determination of the recipient identifier usable to determine the device types when a message is received from a sender is not necessary in Tunncliffe. Rather, Tunncliffe determines when and where to send the message and sends a message for the user. Tunncliffe does not receive a message from a sender for a recipient and determine a recipient identifier usable to determine a plurality of device types. Rather, the personal message system is only for a user and a recipient identifier usable to determine a plurality of device types is not needed. Thus, the combination of Fortman and Tunncliffe do not disclose or suggest determining a recipient identifier that is usable to determine a device type in a plurality if device types associated with the recipient and dynamically determining a device type in the plurality of device types in response to receiving a message from a sender.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim

1. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. Applicants submit that these claims also recite additional, non-obvious and novel features. For example, claim 33 recites that the recipient identifier is different from the device identifier associated with the determined device type. Nowhere is it disclosed or suggested in Fortman and/or Tunnicliffe that the identifier is different from an address for the device type in which the message is sent.

Claims 13-29

Applicants submit that claims 13, 21, and 26 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13, claims 22-25 depend from claim 21, and claims 27-29 depend from claim 26 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom.

New claims 30- 32

Applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of new claims 30-32. For example, in claim 30, applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest sending a message to a username for the recipient where the username is different from a plurality of addresses associated with the recipient where the message is sent to one of the addresses.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/684,686
Amdt. dated November 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 4, 2005

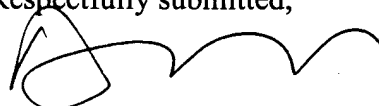
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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Date:



Respectfully submitted,



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